

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

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SAM-01 OMB-01 ERDA-05 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 403

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: ENERGY: CONSIDERATION OF EC PAPER ON MEASURES TO
DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1526

1. BELGIN SUMMARY: THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CON-
SIDERED THE EC COMMISSION'S PAPERS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE
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ENERGY SOURCES AND DECIDED TO FORWARD ONLY THE MORE GENERAL

OF THEM DEALING WITH PRINCIPLES TO THE EC COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS. THEY AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF THE DETAILS
OF HOW SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE SOURCES MIGHT BE ACCOM-
PLISHED. THE EC COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE PAPER ON PRINCIPLE
S
AT ITS MARCH 3-4 SESSION IN ANTICIPATION OF THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING MARCH 6-7. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PERM REP AND COMMISSION SOURCES, THE MEETING
ON FEBRUARY 26-27 IN BRUSSELS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) CONSIDERED THE EC COMMISSION
PAPERS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES(REFTEL). THE
DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON THE FIRST PAPER ON PRINCIPLES
(DESCRIBED AS PART I IN REFTTEL) AND A MODIFIED VERSION OF
IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 3-4. THE PERM REPS DECIDED
TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF THE SECOND PAPER (PART II IN REFTTEL)
ON THE SPECIFIC MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN AND NOT TO
FORWARD IT TO THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME.

3. THE BULK OF THE PERM REP DEBATE FOCUSSED ON NUMBERED
PARAGRAPH 2 WHICH SETS OUT THE FIVE PRINCIPLES. THE UK
DELEGATION HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE FIRST PRINCIPLE REGARDING
FREE ACCESS TO ENERGY RESOURCES. THE UK PERM REP PROPOSED
QUALIFYING LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT FREE ACCESS WOULD BE
"SUBJECT TO THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF MEMBER STATES." THE
COMMISSION, SUPPORTED BY THE BELGIAN, DUTCH AND ITALIAN
DELEGATIONS, OPPOSES ADDING ANY LANGUAGE ALONG THESE LINES,
ARGUING THAT IT WOULD SERIOUSLY WATER DOWN THE PRINCIPLE.
THE GERMANS ARE ALSO VERY DOUBTFUL AND SAID ANY SUCH
LANGUAGE, IF USED AT ALL, WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY
WORDED.

4. THE FIFTH PRINCIPLE, DEALING WITH SHARING OF COSTS AND
BENEFITS, ALSO GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITH
ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS MAINTAINING VERY GUARDED POSITIONS.
THE GERMANS WERE PARTICULARLY CAUTIOUS, FEARING THAT THEY
WILL END UP HAVING TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES.

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5. THE FRENCH HAD RESERVATIONS ON BOTH NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS
1 AND 3, ARGUING THAT THE COMMISSION HAD OVERSTEPPED ITS
AUTHORITY IN MAKING REFERENCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS
AS A WHOLE AND NOT JUST THE NINE. THE COMMISSION HAS AGREED
TO REDRAFT THESE SECTIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FRENCH
VIEW.

6. BECAUSE THE SECOND PAPER ON SPECIFIC MEASURES WAS NOT

DISCUSSED, THE COREPER DID NOT GET INTO ANY DETAIL REGARDING A COMMON FLOOR PRICE. THE GERMANS, HOWEVER, DID VOLUNTEER THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A FLOOR PRICE SCHEME IF THE FLOOR WERE LOW ENOUGH, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$5 OR \$6 A BARREL. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY PREFERRED MORE EMPHASIS ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH. MYERSON

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